

Message Text

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64
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 074983

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: DELAMINATION OF WINDSHIELD ON ARMORED CAR, AMMAN

FOR RSO BEIRUT

REF: AMMAN 1921

1. SY NOW IN PROCESS OF REQUESTING OPR/ST TO CONTRACT FOR THREE ARMORED WINDSHIELDS, THE FIRST OF WHICH WILL BE FOR AMMAN VEHICLE. THIS WINDSHIELD WILL BE SUPERIOR TO PRESENT LAMINATED CONFIGURATION, AND WILL BE A MONOLITHIC POLY-CARBONATE WITH HARDENED INNER AND OUTER SURFACES. WE HAVE ALREADY PURCHASED AND INSTALLED TWO, IN ANKARA AND TEHRAN, AND THEY APPEAR TO OFFER GOOD OPTICS AND HOLD UP WELL ENVIRONMENTALLY. UNFORTUNATELY, AMMAN'S WINDSHIELD WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE ON POST BEFORE MID AUGUST 1974. IT CAN BE INSTALLED BY WASHINGTON BASED SEABEES AT AMMAN. THERE ARE NO OTHER ARMORED WINDSHIELDS AVAILABLE NOW, SINCE THIS IS NOT A SHELF ITEM AND MUST BE CUSTOM FABRICATED FOR A SPECIFIC CAR, WHICH IS WHAT WE ARE DOING NOW. THERE ARE NO OTHER FULLY ARMORED CARS AVAILABLE NOW, TO REPLACE THE AMMAN CAR.

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2. IN THE MEANTIME, IF PRESENT WINDSHIELD DETERIORATES TO THE POINT OF RENDERING THE VEHICLE UNSAFE TO DRIVE, SUGGEST A STOCK WINDSHIELD BE INSTALLED UNTIL NEW ARMORED ONE ARRIVES. PROTECTION ON THREE SIDES BETTER THAN JUST OPAQUE ARMOR WITH NO TRANSPARENT ARMOR AT ALL, WHICH IS WHAT YOU WILL HAVE IF YOUR FULLY ARMORED SEDAN IS DEADLINED. IF YOU CANNOT PURCHASE WINDSHIELD LOCALLY, WE WILL PURCHASE AND SHIP ONE TO YOU; HOWEVER, IT WORKS BEST IF YOU BUY LOCALLY, SINCE THERE IS A DANGER OF BREAKAGE IN SHIPMENT.

KISSINGER

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